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Paul R. LePage

18 August 2011

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Concord, NH 03301

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State Capitol
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Hartford, CT 06106

Governor Peter Shumlin
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109 State Street Pavilion
Montpelier, VT 05609

Dear Fellow New England Governors:

I write today to bring your attention to the proposed cuts in the Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Our citizens are some of the most vulnerable when it comes to heating their homes during the rugged New England winter. This coming heating season presents two marked challenges for our poorest families, who are caught between the twin challenges of an anemic economy and the rising cost of heating oil.

President Obama's proposed LIHEAP cuts will put further strain on the resources of our states, while the need is greater than ever. Further, our non-profits and the charity of our citizens are both giving more than they can possibly maintain into the future. It is times like these that we must act together to protect the men, women, and children of the six New England states.

The State of Maine has sent a letter to its Congressional Delegation asking that they place all options on the table to either maintain LIHEAP funding or to help reduce the cost of heating oil. This includes a review of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to help alleviate any supply issues. No options must be dismissed because they upset a particular community.

We understand that Congress's past ways of doing business are at an end. That only increases the need to find creative ways to address our problems and protect our citizens. It is our job as governors of our states to lead through these difficult times and request the Federal Government assess its full range of options. We owe the people of New England nothing less. I look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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